

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (twice amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:
- a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix that is cured non-chemically at temperatures in the range of about 10°C to about 40°C or that is cured chemically, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 µm to about 1000 µm;
  - b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;
  - c) delivering said suspension comprising said microbeads onto an intended environment; and
  - d) allowing said microbeads to dehydrate.